

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Coenen et al (US 6,305,469). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of claims 10 and 12. The Examiner has indicated that a claim directed to such subject matter would be allowable.

Coenen teaches a method for creating a wellbore. The method disclosed in Coenen uses a drilling device suspended from a cable. However Coenen does not disclose locating the lower section of the cable within a length of tubing, and that the tubing which at one end is in fluid communication with a fluid passage in the drilling device and at the other end extends into the hydrocarbon fluid production conduit.

Therefore claim 1 as amended is considered to be novel over Coenen. Claims 2-9, 12-25 and 30-31 are dependant either directly or indirectly from claim 1 as amended and are therefore also novel over Coenen.

Claims 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious over Coenen et al in view of Quigley (US5921285). Claims 26-29 have been cancelled therefore this objection is now moot.

Claims 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Coenen et al in view of Bailey (US6454007). As claims 30 and 31 are dependant on claim 1, which is valid for the reasons given above, it is considered that claims 30 and 31 are likewise valid.

The Applicant is of the opinion that this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues. Accordingly, the application is now deemed to be in a condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration on the basis of these amendments and remarks is requested.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-2183 (Reference Number 21.1268).

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Respectfully submitted,

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